13. *Forests.*—It has been found that the teak wood poles available in the forests of the State could with advantage be substituted for iron poles for the construction of the 11 K. V. transmission lines in connection with the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Project, by subjecting them to a special treatment known as the *Ascu* treatment to prevent them from deterioration due to the attacks of fungus and other insects. The treatment consists in the impregnation of a special compound of arsenic and copper under pressure into the wooden poles. In view of the substantial saving expected from the use of such wooden poles, provision has been made in the Forest budget for the training of an officer in *Ascu* treatment of timber and for the purchase of the necessary accessories for the purpose.

Mention was made last year of the possibilities of opening a Paper Mill at Alwaye or Thattakad by utilising the eatta available in the forest areas between Pallivasal and Neriamangalam. The Titaghur Paper Mills of Calcutta have proposed the opening of a pulp and paper factory at Alwaye, subject to the condition of the eatta available in the State being found satisfactory, on being tested in their laboratory at Calcutta. It is therefore proposed to send about 50 tons of eatta to the company for experiment and provision has been made for the purpose.

14. *General Administration.*—The Account department of the State was organised on the present lines about 30 years ago when it was decided that the Account Officer should also discharge the functions of the Financial Secretary Ex-officio. On a careful review of this arrangement in the light of the expanding activities of the Government, it is felt that the time has come for the separation of the two appointments ; and in fact such separation has been urged by the members of the Legislature on more occasions than one. While it is the duty of the Account Officer to watch the scrupulous observance of the rules and orders of the Government, the Financial Secretary is himself a part of the Government charged with the duty of advising them in the financial administration of the State. Further, in the present constitution of the State, the Legislature through its two Committees, *viz.*, the Public Accounts and the Finance Committees, participates in the financial administration of the State. The Financial Secretary's position has thus become much more responsible and onerous than it was 30 years ago, when the appointments of the Financial Secretary and the Account Officer were combined in one and the same person. For these reasons Government propose to organise an independent Financial Secretariat and for this purpose a lump sum provision of Rs 15,000 is included in the budget.

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